

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office, from the International Bureau under PCT Rule 17.2(a).

However, Applicant notes that the Examiner has indicated on the form PTO-326 that only "some" of the copies has been received. Applicant believes and submits that all of the documents have been properly submitted and hereby requests the Examiner acknowledge receipt of all of priority documents, i.e. JP 10-217539.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning Form PTO-1449 filed on January 30, 2001, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Specification:

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract under MPEP § 608.01(b) as being in improper format. Applicant has revised the Abstract and submits herewith a replacement Abstract. Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above objection.

Claim Objection:

The Examiner has also objected to claim 6, as having an improper preamble format. Applicant has amended claim 6, as shown in the previous section, and hereby requests the Examiner withdraw the above objection.

Further, Applicant notes that the above referenced claim amendment has been made to merely clarify the claimed invention and is not intended to narrow the original scope or spirit of the claim, in any way.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application, and currently all of the claims stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection - Claims 4, 8 and 9:

Claims 4, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has amended each of these claims, as shown in the previous section, and hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of these claims.

Applicant notes that claim 8 is a proper multiple dependent claim, and Applicant requests the Examiner examine claim 8 accordingly, as depending alternatively on claims 6 and 7, not just claim 7, as indicated in the December 22, 2003 Office Action. (See page 3).

Further, Applicant notes that the above referenced claim amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention and are not intended to narrow the original scope or spirit of the claims in any way.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1-15:

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,939,581 to Shalit. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

Applicant notes that the present invention is directed to handling picture data comprised of a plurality of element colors, and adjusts the proportion of the values of each of the element colors. *See e.g.* claims 1, 6 and 11. Stated differently, in the present invention “relative proportions among element colors [are] adjusted to prescribed values correspondingly to luminance values after luminance conversion.” *See* claim 1, 6, and 11. However, Applicant submits that Shalit fails to disclose this aspect of the invention.

Specifically, Applicant notes that Shalit does not disclose the adjustment of each values of each element colors, because the picture element disclosed in Shalit does not contain a plurality of element colors. Because the plurality of element colors is not disclosed, Shalit can not disclose this aspect of the invention.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Shalit has little or no relevance to the claimed invention, as the present invention adjusts the proportions of each of a plurality of element color values.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Shalit fails to disclose each and every feature of the present invention, as set forth in claim 1, 6 and 11. Therefore, Applicant submits that Shalit fails to anticipate the present invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 6 and 11. Further, as claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 depend on these claims, respectively, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/744,768

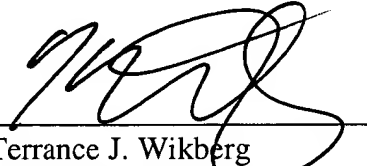
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Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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